

- (b) exhibits L-threonine auxotrophy;
- (c) exhibits enhanced intracellular cystathionine γ -synthase activity and enhanced intracellular aspartokinase.homoserine dehydrogenase II activity; and
- (d) has a homoserine transsuccinylase for which concerted inhibition by L-methionine and S-adenosylmethionine is desensitized.

14. (New) The method according to Claim 12, wherein the microorganism is an *Escherichia* bacterium.

15. (New) The method according to Claim 12, wherein the microorganism is *Escherichia coli*.

B' 16. (New) The method of Claim 12, wherein the repressor of L-methionine biosynthesis is the metJ protein.

17. (New) The method of Claim 13, wherein the S-adenosylmethionine synthetase is encoded by the metK gene.

18. (New) The method of Claim 13, wherein the cystathionine γ synthase is encoded by the metB gene.

19. (New) The method of Claim 13, wherein the aspartokinase homoserine dehydrogenase II is encoded by the metL gene.

20. (New) The method of Claim 13, wherein the homoserine transsuccinylase comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:26, wherein at amino acid number 27 the arginine is replaced with an cysteine, at amino acid number 296 the isoleucine is replace with a serine, and at amino acid number 298 the proline is replaced with a leucine.

21. (New) A method for producing L-methionine which comprises culturing a microorganism in a medium to produce and accumulate L-methionine in the medium, and

collecting the L-methionine from the medium, wherein the microorganism has enhanced intracellular homoserine transsuccinylase activity and L-methionine productivity.

22. (New) The method according to Claim 21, wherein the enhanced homoserine transsuccinylase activity is obtained by increasing the copy number of a gene coding for the intracellular homoserine transsuccinylase, or enhancing an expression regulatory sequence for the gene.

23. (New) The method according to Claim 21, wherein the microorganism further comprises at least one characteristic selected from the group consisting of:

- B¹
- (a) exhibits reduced intracellular S-adenosylmethionine synthetase activity;
 - (b) exhibits L-threonine auxotrophy; and
 - (c) exhibits enhanced intracellular cystathionine γ -synthase activity and enhanced intracellular aspartokinase-homoserine dehydrogenase II activity.
- (d) has a homoserine transsuccinylase for which concerted inhibition by L-methionine and s-adenosylmethionine is desensitized.

24. (New) The method according to Claim 21, wherein the microorganism is an *Escherichia* bacterium.

25. (New) The method according to Claim 21, wherein the microorganism is *Escherichia coli*.

26. (New) The method of Claim 21, wherein the repressor of L-methionine biosynthesis is the metJ protein.

27. (New) The method of Claim 22, wherein the S-adenosylmethionine synthetase is encoded by the metK gene.

28. (New) The method of Claim 22, wherein the cystathionine γ synthase is encoded by the metB gene.

29. (New) The method of Claim 22, wherein the aspartokinase homoserine dehydrogenase II is encoded by the metL gene.

30. (New) The method of Claim 22, wherein the homoserine transsuccinylase comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:26, wherein at amino acid number 27 the arginine is replaced with an cysteine, at amino acid number 296 the isoleucine is replace with a serine, and at amino acid number 298 the proline is replaced with a leucine.

B¹
31. (New) A method for producing L-methionine which comprises culturing a microorganism in a medium to produce and accumulate L-methionine in the medium, and collecting the L-methionine from the medium, wherein the microorganism is deficient in repressor of L-methionine biosynthesis system, and which has enhanced intracellular homoserine transsuccinylase activity and L-methionine productivity.

32. (New) The method according to claim 31, wherein the enhanced homoserine transsuccinylase activity is obtained by increasing copy number of a gene coding for the intracellular homoserine transsuccinylase, or enhancing an expression regulatory sequence for the gene.

33. (New) The method according to claim 31, wherein the microorganism further comprises at least one characteristic selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) exhibits reduced intracellular S-adenosylmethionine synthetase activity;
- (b) exhibits L-threonine auxotrophy; and
- (c) exhibits enhanced intracellular cystathionine γ -synthase activity and enhanced intracellular aspartokinase-homoserine dehydrogenase II activity.

(d) has a homoserine transsuccinylase for which concerted inhibition by L-methionine and S-adenosylmethionine is desensitized.

34. (New) The method according to Claim 31, wherein the microorganism is an *Escherichia* bacterium.

35. (New) The method according to Claim 31, wherein the microorganism is *Escherichia coli*.

36. (New) The method of Claim 31, wherein the repressor of L-methionine biosynthesis is the metJ protein.

B¹ 37. (New) The method of Claim 32, wherein the S-adenosylmethionine synthetase is encoded by the metK gene.

38. (New) The method of Claim 32, wherein the cystathionine γ synthase is encoded by the metB gene.

39. (New) The method of Claim 32, wherein the aspartokinase homoserine dehydrogenase II is encoded by the metL gene.

40. (New) The method of Claim 31, wherein the homoserine transsuccinylase comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:26, wherein at amino acid number 27 the arginine is replaced with an cysteine, at amino acid number 296 the isoleucine is replace with a serine, and at amino acid number 298 the proline is replaced with a leucine.
